



10 Clonwood Heights  
Clane  
Co. Kildare  
April 2024

**Re: Award-Winning Estates**

Dear Residents' Association,

Clane Tidy Towns are delighted to announce details of this year's Award-Winning Estates initiative - thanks as always to the generous sponsorship by Clane Project Centre.

All residential housing estates are encouraged to enter. Please enter by filling out the entry form online at <http://ClaneCommunity.ie>, or by dropping the form below into the address above.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Freda Fogarty at 086 3192038, or anyone else on the Tidy Towns team, or email [ClaneTidyTowns@gmail.com](mailto:ClaneTidyTowns@gmail.com).

Our residential areas were a key contributor to our being awarded a Bronze Medal in the national competition last year. With your help we hope Clane will have a rewarding year again in 2024.

Thank you for your continued support – and best of luck!

Yours faithfully,

Clane Tidy Towns

PS Did you know?

- Some resources online that you may find of use to your estate:
  - Potholes, illegal dumping, footpath issues, etc. can be reported to Kildare County Council via <https://kildarecoco.ie/YourCouncil/CustomerService/ContactUs/>
  - Street Light problems (for estates in charge) can be reported at <https://enerveo.com/report-a-fault/republic-of-ireland/>
  - Local recycling amenities are listed on <http://clanecommunity.ie/amenities/recycling-facilities/>
  - Kildare County Council can support estate clean-ups with supplies of bags, litter pickers and waste collection. Forms are available at <http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Forms/Environment/>.
- Clane Tidy Towns may be able to supply native trees to estates in the Autumn at no cost to the estate. Please contact us if there is a bare wall or fence or some other area in your estate that you would like to plant.
- Clane Tidy Towns meets outside the Abbey every Monday at 7:00pm for general village tidy-ups. Also Saturday's at 10AM during peak periods. We'd be delighted to see you!

## Composting

We are delighted to see many gardens and some estates are now creating their own compost. There are many positives to composting include providing a free, local source of valuable compost; tackling the dumping of green waste in hedges; providing an area for creepy-crawlies and other wildlife to forage; and reducing demand for extracting peat from our valuable bogs.

For tips and tricks on creating a composting area in your garden or estate there are many guides online e.g. <https://www.antaisce.org/compost>.

## Pollinator-Friendly Clane

Clane Tidy Towns is continuing to make Clane more pollinator friendly. We also encourage you to explore the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Guide for Gardens at <https://pollinators.ie/>. It contains lots of free or low-cost ideas.

Please record any steps you take on <https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/>, or give Clane Tidy Towns the details and we can record them there.

# Pollinator friendly guide for estates management

Pollinators are important for our health, wealth and environment. If you have been given this sheet, the people living in the properties you manage are concerned about their local pollinators. Show them you care by taking these five no-cost measures to help pollinators:

- 1 Let the Dandelions bloom:** wait until late April to do the first grass cut. This allows some Dandelions to flower, providing bees with much needed food in the spring
- 2 Do not spray edging or bases of trees:** avoid using pesticides to tidy up these areas; strim instead, or let the grass here grow to provide pollinators with food
- 3 Protect hedgerows, dry stone walls and earth banks:** especially when south facing, these areas are important nesting sites for harmless solitary bees. Avoid using pesticides on these areas
- 4 Create a '6-week meadow':** cut small areas or strips of grass on a 6-week rotation to provide more wildflowers for pollinators
- 5** If you take any pollinator friendly measures, log them on the publically available mapping system, **'Actions for Pollinators.'** Let everyone know that your company is doing its part for pollinators [www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)



Signage templates to inform the community that areas are being protected for pollinators can be downloaded from our website: [www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan)



## Award-Winning Estates Judging Guidelines

The National Tidy Towns initiative has evolved significantly over the last number of years and is no longer focused on tidiness. Community Involvement, Sustainable Waste and Resource Management and Wildlife are now very significant categories that are also considered.

Based on the National Tidy Towns judging criteria, the judges of the Clane Award Winning Estates competitions will be invited to consider the following. They may also wish to comment on anything else that they believe is relevant.

- Is there active involvement of the community?
- Sustainability and Wildlife
  - Are leaves / grass / hedge cuttings composted? (neatly, rather than dumping!)
  - Are flowers long-lasting perennials rather than short-term summer bedding?
  - Are there native trees, copses of native trees, or native hedges e.g. screening walls?
  - Are there butterfly patches / wildflower areas – e.g. reduced mowing or mini-meadow areas? Note that the National Pollinator Plan now recommends that packets of wildflower seeds (native or otherwise) are *not* planted in public areas. It is better to give the local wildflowers the chance to establish and thrive.
  - Are pesticides/weedkillers avoided?
  - Are there suitably sited nest boxes or bat boxes?
  - Are there local ecological corridors established or strengthened?
  - Is there accessibility through boundaries for animals on the ground such as hedghogs and frogs?
- Litter
  - Is there evidence of litter?
  - Is there evidence of dumping?
  - Is there dumping of grass/garden cuttings?
  - Are there any tie-wraps etc on lamp-posts?
- Tidiness
  - Are roads, verges, paths, public areas tidy?
  - Is there graffiti?
  - Are there any tree-ties that need to be loosened?
  - Are there any tree-stakes no longer needed?
- Entrance area
  - Is it well maintained?
  - Is there a sign? Is it visible?
- Boundary area of the estate
  - Is it well maintained?
- Houses and Gardens
  - Are they generally well presented?



## Award Winning Estates Entry Form

**Estate Name**

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**Contact Information**

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Telephone Number</b>	
<b>Email Address</b>	

**Please list any recent initiatives or any plans that you would like to bring to the attention of the judges**

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**Signature**

**Date**

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